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Letter dated 1 May 2018 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to refer to the United Nations Integrated Peacebuilding Office in Guinea-Bissau (UNIOGBIS), which was established by the Security Council in its resolution 1876 (2009) and whose mandate was most recently extended in resolution 2404 (2018).

Following the usual consultations, I wish to inform you of my intention to appoint José Viegas Filho (Brazil) as my Special Representative for Guinea-Bissau and Head of UNIOGBIS, at the level of Under-Secretary-General, effective 7 May 2018. He succeeds Modibo Touré (Mali), who will complete his assignment on 6 May.

While there has been some recent progress in overcoming the political and institutional crisis that has affected Guinea-Bissau since 2015, the full implementation of the Conakry Agreement, which was brokered by the Economic Community of West African States and endorsed by the Security Council and the Peace and Security Council of the African Union, remains a challenge. In addition to the recent appointment of a consensus Prime Minister and the formation of an inclusive Government, the Agreement calls for the adoption of a stability pact incorporating key constitutional, electoral, justice and security sector reforms.

These reforms are expected to be implemented ahead of legislative elections scheduled for later in 2018 and presidential elections in 2019. In this context, in view of the anticipated challenges in completing the electoral cycle, the need for good offices and high-level political facilitation will remain critical in the coming months, requiring the full-time engagement of the United Nations at a senior level.

My Special Representative and Head of UNIOGBIS will have responsibility for the implementation of the mission's mandate and the overall management of the mission. He will carry out the good offices, political facilitation and mediation roles and promote the integration of the political, security and development aspects of the United Nations system's engagement in Guinea-Bissau.

I should be grateful for your kind cooperation in bringing the present letter to the attention of the members of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) António **Guterres**

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